

REPOSITORY LOS ALAMOS NAT LAB
COLLECTION CL-14
BOX No 11331-1
FOLDER CASTLE NATIVES

CL 14

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April 17, 1961

Dr. Robert A. Conard
Medical Research Center
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, Long Island, New York

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Bob:

I am quite happy to accept the fact that anorexia, nausea, and a few cases of vomiting did occur among the Rongelap natives. In our accident case of 1958 one man received a single dose of 130 rads. He was a man of better than average intelligence, and he knew perfectly well what had happened. I questioned him very carefully but in his case he apparently had none of these symptoms, nor did he have any weakness or easy fatiguability later on. I have not referred back to the Oak Ridge cases of 1958 to determine what they had in the way of symptoms at a comparable dose level, but I know that Marshall Brucer felt that much of the nausea and vomiting they encountered was emotional in origin, and the weakness he describes could perhaps be attributed to the fact that the men were hospitalized, our man was not. From this I think we can safely conclude that with doses below 200 rads there may or may not be symptoms, and if they do exist they will not be severe or incapacitating. This is the sort of fact that the military likes to get hold of because it may be very useful to them sometime.

I won't try to comment on the eccentricities of the white counts except to extend my sympathy in your confusion. Here we seem to be making increased use of the Coulter counter for both routine and experimental studies, which of course reflects the laziness of the idle rich, but I must confess that the results seem more consistent and reproducible.

Very sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M.D.

THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M.D.
Health Division Leader

TLS/njt